Presbyterian church in Canada.
Memorial & protest of the
Commission of the Synod.

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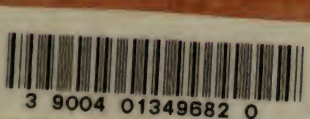

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MEMORIAL AND PROTEST

OF THE COMMISSION OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, IN CONNEXION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, RESPECTING THE CLERGY RESERVE ACT, &c.

To the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

The Memorial and Protest of the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your Memorialists heard with very great satisfaction, that the Imperial Parliament, among other steps towards the adjustment of the affairs of Canada, had undertaken the disposal of the Clergy Reserves;—and while, with all their fellow subjects, they rejoiced in the prospect of seeing so fertile a cause of disturbance removed for ever, they esteemed themselves peculiarly happy in the public recognition, before the settlement of the question, by the highest legal authorities of the empire, and in the fullest manner, of their long asserted equality of right with the Church of England to those Reserves, and to participation in all privileges, advantages, and benefactions conferred upon a "Protestant Clergy." After the opposition and annoyance, the misrepresentation and insult, to which your Memorialists had been subjected for many years, by certain parties in this Colony, they felt unspeakably grateful to God for this signal vindication of the justice of their claims, and looked forward, with the greatest confidence, to a final settlement of the Reserve Question, conformable with the legal decision in their favour; assured that, having waited so long, the utmost care would be taken by Her Majesty's Government and the British Parliament to afford them full indemnity for the past and security for the future.

These reasonable expectations, your Memorialists with grief declare, have been bitterly disappointed. In the Act of the Imperial Parliament, for the disposal of the Reserves, they perceive not only no rectification of the past, but the system of inequality and injustice, under which they suffered before the judicial determination of their right, fixed and perpetuated. No compensation has been provided to them for more than twenty thousand acres of the best of the Reserves, far exceeding in value, from their quality and situation, any equal extent of those that remain, which have been given to the Church of England; or for the privations to which your Memorialists have been subjected, in consequence of the monopoly by that Church of the favour of the Government. A sum nearly five times as large as that, in the meantime, secured to the Church of Scotland, has been secured to the Church of England;—and finally, of the portion of the Reserves allotted to the established Churches of the Empire, the Church of England has received two thirds, the Church of Scotland but one.

It is for the purpose of expressing on their own behalf, and on the behalf of those over whose spiritual interests it is their duty to watch, their deep sense of the injury which has been thus unexpectedly done to them and to the cause of Religion in this Colony, and of seeking immediate redress, that your Memorialists have assembled.

The ground of the unequal partition of the Reserves, it seems to be universally understood and admitted, was the alledged numerical strength of the branches of the two established Churches in Upper Canada. Your Memorialists find that your Lordship, after the fullest admission of the equality of right in the two Churches, as recognized by the judges of England, stated publicly in Parliament, and also to the deputation of the Church of Scotland, that this was the sole reason of the great inequality in the division, representing the number of the adherents of the two Churches as forty thousand, and eighty thousand respectively. This being moreover, the proportion actually observed in the partition, your Memorialists find themselves authorized to conclude that it was fixed upon the principle mentioned, which is indeed the only principle that could, after the decision of the judges, have given a colour of justice to the enactment complained of.

Your Memorialists, referring to the documents before them, find it difficult to understand how Her Majesty's Government and the Imperial Parliament, could have been guided to this estimate of the number of their adherents:—if by the return of the numerical strength of the Religious Denominations of Upper Canada, founded on the Census of 1839, and transmitted by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada—your Memorialists cannot but declare their extreme surprise and sorrow. The opinion expressed of that return by all parties ought, your Memorialists humbly conceive, to have entirely destroyed its

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authority as a basis of Legislation, in a matter of such infinite importance. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had officially informed both the Provincial Parliament and your Lordship, that "the imperfections of the returns from which it was compiled were such, as altogether to invalidate them as statistical data for any safe deductions." The Provincial Legislature were so fully aware of its incorrectness, that in framing the Bill passed in its last Session, for the disposition of the Reserves, it contemplated the apportionment of the proceeds, according to a Census yet to be taken. The notorious worthlessness of the Return of 1839, being thus fully known to the Government and Legislature of Upper Canada, and to Her Majesty's Government, your Memorialists did not think it necessary to take any steps to represent its errors, more particularly, to the Imperial Parliament. They were not aware at the last meeting of the Synod, that the Parliament would undertake the settlement of the Reserve Question, nor could they possibly have conceived that in the event of its doing so, it could have attached any importance to a document, so justly the object of universal condemnation and ridicule. How easily, and with what justice, had they anticipated this, they could have exposed the Return of 1839, they would now proceed to shew.

While, with regard to other denominations, your Memorialists do not deny that the return may exhibit, as the Lieutenant Governor has stated in his Despatch of September 14, 1839, an "Approximate Estimate," of their comparative numbers, they declare and complain that its incorrectness, as respects the adherents of the Church of Scotland, is such as to represent them at little more than half their real number.

1st. Your Memorialists would draw your Lordship's attention to the enormous injury, which they in particular have sustained from "the want of uniformity pervading the Returns," as regards the heading of the columns, of which His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has taken notice in the Despatch above referred to.

In the Returns from some of the Districts, your Lordship will find the columns headed, "Church of England," "Church of Scotland," "Church of Rome," &c.,—in others "Episcopalians," "Presbyterians," "Roman Catholics," &c. Now in the Tabular Statement exhibiting the aggregate of each Church, while those returned as "Episcopalians," have invariably been given to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland has not got credit for one individual of those returned as "Presbyterians." In this manner, some of the Districts, which are the very strong holds of the Scottish Church, have been represented as not containing a single individual of that body. Your Memorialists would refer your Lordship to the Return for the District of Bathurst, in which not one individual appears as belonging to the Church of Scotland, although that District contains, and has for many years contained, not fewer than six Ministers of that Church with large Congregations, besides as many more vacant Congregations, which your Memorialists, disabled by long deprivation of their rights, have in vain laboured to supply with religious ordinances. Of the "Presbyterians" of Bathurst, the most numerous denomination in the District, all, with few, if any exceptions, belong to the Church of Scotland; which, as regards that District alone, has been misrepresented to the amount of nearly 9000.

In the Return for the District of New Castle, in like manner, not one of 9000 "Presbyterians" has been given to the Church of Scotland, to which, by far, the greater number of them are known to belong.

Thus by the want of a column for the adherents of the Church of Scotland, in the Returns for two of the Districts most abounding with Scottish Settlers, your Memorialists have been defrauded of, at the most moderate reckoning, 15,000 of their adherents.

2ndly. In the Returns for some of the Districts, where separate columns were opened for the Church of Scotland, and for other Presbyterians, all those who, being uninformed (as was generally the case) of the distinction to be observed, stated themselves to be "Presbyterians," were returned and summed up as not belonging to the Church of Scotland. This, as regards particularly the Johnstown, Midland, Prince Edward, Niagara, London, and Talbot Districts, has been a fruitful source of misrepresentation. In the Johnstown District, even Office Bearers of the Church of Scotland have been taken from that Church, by being returned not merely as "Presbyterians," but with the addition of the words "not in connexion with the Church of Scotland." In one instance, a Minister and the whole of his congregation have thus been represented as not belonging to their own Church. The result of this mode of heading in the Niagara District, where only 98 are returned as belonging to the Church of Scotland, and these all in one Township, is a mockery of common sense.

From this second cause, your Memorialists have lost, in the reckoning of his

Religious Denominations, as they are prepared to prove, at least 5000 of their people.

3dly. Your Memorialists regret to add that not only have many of their people been misrepresented, but turned against their own interest, by being put into the opposite scale, and returned as belonging to the Church of England. This also they are ready to prove, and they are not aware of a single instance in which the reverse has been done.

4thly. Your Memorialistss have, with great astonishment and pain, to advert to the fact, that in the mere summation of the columns, an Arithmetical error has been committed to their prejudice, to the extent of three thousand one hundred and twenty-one.

In all these ways your Memorialists complain that by the returns of 1839, the adherents of their Church have been represented at from 20,000 to 25,000 less than their actual number.

Your Memorialists' surprise and grief are greatly increased by perceiving that, while His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in his Despatch of September 14, 1839, condemns generally the Returns, as a basis of Legislation, he has stated in a note (marked b) appended to the "Tabulated Abstract" forwarded to Her Majesty's Government, that "a large proportion" of those returned under the general designation of "Presbyterians" belong to "the Church of Scotland" and "ought to be added to the special aggregate of that Church, in the first column." Of these, and they can be proved to be indeed "a large proportion," probably two thirds of the whole 31,000 returned as "Presbyterians," Her Majesty's Government has not added one to the aggregate of the Church of Scotland.

Of other and minor causes of inaccuracy, as it might not be easy to shew that they have suffered from them to a greater extent than other denominations, your Memorialists forbear to speak. Upon the grounds already stated, they solemnly protest and reclaim against the Census of 1839 as a basis of Legislation, and against the partition of the Reserves, so palpably unjust to them, which has been founded upon it. They are prepared to prove, that the adherents of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, in the year 1839, numbered 70,000, without taking into account the sixth of the population, not reckoned in the Return, and they declare themselves willing to abide by the result of any Census, the correctness of which proper pains shall have been taken to secure.

Such being the facts of the case, as known to all this province, your Lordship cannot be surprised that your Memorialists and the people under their charge should feel deeply aggrieved and indignant. They have borne long and patiently with the denial of what has been by the highest authority declared to be no more than their just right, and with the insult to which their assertion of that right has exposed them. While the sister Church of England, has obtained one favour after another, and one facility after another, for the spiritual instruction of that portion of the community belonging to her, the Church of Scotland has had to struggle with poverty, and to sustain the practical denial of her claims, on behalf of her sons in Canada, the earliest British settlers of the Province, and as loyal, valuable and numerous as any other denomination of British descent. And when at length her right is legally recognized, and she expects to receive from the British Government and Parliament, full indemnity for the privations which have crippled her efforts for the good of her people, their expectations are all at once defeated, by a gross arithmetical misrepresentation, which might with equal care have been detected and rectified.

The inevitable result of this treatment, at such a time, from whatever cause it originated, whether inattention to facts, or any influence prejudicial to the Presbyterian Church, must be, and is, your Lordship's Memorialists feel, deep dissatisfaction, and a permanent feeling of jealousy, distrust, and insecurity, contrasting sadly with the union, peace, and confidence, in which it has been the boast of British subjects to live.

Your Memorialists who have long and fervently prayed for the peace and welfare of this distracted Colony, and who, viewing with dread, all agitation of the public mind at this crisis, would rather repress than increase it,—do nevertheless, as the guardians of the interests of a larger number of the Protestant inhabitants of the Province, than any other ecclesiastical body, and as answerable to God for their maintenance of the privileges of their people, feel it to be their duty plainly to declare that, they must seek in every constitutional way, compensation for past, and security from future injuries, and, especially, redress for the grievous, unexpected, and permanent injustice, done them by an Act which, they were prepared to hail as the cure of all their wrongs. And so clear and undeniable do they consider the statement which they now make of their grievances, that they cannot conceive the existence of any other disposition on the part of Her Majesty's Government than one, to employ every possible means of removing them,

and along with them that watchful suspicion and distrust, which otherwise must be increased if not perpetuated.

In urging upon your Lordship the immediate re-consideration, with a view to compensation and redress, of the claims of their Church, your Memorialists have also to bring under the attention of Her Majesty's Government, those of the Body, lately known by the name of the United Synod of Upper Canada. This Body, which comprehended all the Presbyterians of the Province, not belonging to the Church of Scotland, except a few Seceders and American Presbyterians, has since the Census of 1839, been incorporated with the Church of Scotland.—Your Memorialists not only regard this event as most important to the spiritual and moral interests of the Province, but they view it with emotions of complacency, as a high and incontrovertible testimony to the excellence and popularity of their national Church, and its adaptation to the wants and feelings of the Colony; and while they feel it strengthens their claim and right to the favourable regard of the Government, it is to them a rich source of consolation under the obloquy they have endured. By the accession of this Body, the Church of your Memorialists comprehends nine tenths of the Presbyterians in the Province, being, as is stated above, the largest body in Canada of British origin, and is enabled to aspire to measures for the moral and spiritual welfare of the community, the effects of which must soon be powerfully felt.

Your Memorialists would press on your Lordship's consideration, the claim of the United Synod to their portion of that part of the Reserves which is yet unappropriated. Of the Bodies which may be regarded as having any just expectations from that fund, your Memorialists need not inform your Lordship that none has a higher claim than the United Synod. Nearly allied to one of the established Churches of the Empire, many of its Ministers and Members being from the Synod of Ulster, it has long enjoyed a measure of respect and favour from the Government; and the union which has now been so happily consummated, having taken place under the auspices of the Government, must be regarded as strengthening its claim to that portion which, as not having been reckoned with the Church of Scotland in the partition of the Reserves, it has a title in its own right. And here your Memorialists would observe, that a Providential opening is afforded fo Her Majesty's Government for making amends, althongh very inadequately, to the much injured members of the Church of Scotland; inasmuch as a great many of those who by the misrepresentations of the Census (especially those arising from the first and second causes of error enumerated in this Memorial,) have been taken from that Church under the general designation of "Presbyterians," appear in the "Tabulated Statement" as belonging to the United Synod. This circumstance, your Memorialists have no doubt, will be gladly embraced by Her Majesty's Government, as affording scope for some rectification of an act which, must otherwise result in great hardship and injustice.

Your Memorialists have still to advert to a matter which affects yet more powerfully their rights and feelings, as well as the spiritual interests of the Church and Province. They have observed in the legislation of the Imperial Parliament on Canadian affairs, no reference to those enactments of 31st Geo. III, Chap. 31st, authorizing the erection in Canada of Rectories of the Church of England, with the same jurisdiction as in England. The operation of this enactment your Memorialists have all along complained of as the most intolerable of the injuries they have had to suffer, and as a violation of the fundamental articles of the Treaty of Union, by which equal rights are secured to the natives of Scotland and England. While nothing has been done to remedy the unjust partiality shewn in the appropriation to the Rectories of a large portion of the richest and best situated of those Reserves, which are now decided to belong to the Protestant Clergy of the Church of Scotland as much as to those of the Church of England; Your Memorialists far more deeply feel, and grievously complain of the continuance, at a period so favourable for its revision, of a law, the unwise enforcement of which, has contributed so much to the disturbance of the Colony. Against this law your Memorialists must continue to protest, as an infraction of their constitutional rights, in a Colony of the United Kingdom, so long as the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of the Rectors appointed under it are not declared restricted, as regards all adherents of the Scottish Church and all natives of Scotland, of whatever denomination, and so long as any advantage given, or intended to be given to the Church of England thereby, for the carrying out of her ecclesiastical system, is not equally bestowed upon the Church of Scotland. Your Memorialists are constrained to repeat, that no recognition however full, of their right to participation in pecuniary provision and advantages, nor even the most ample practical justice in reference to these, can ever induce them to cease from

their opposition to a system which pretends to add spiritual inferiority and subjection to temporal injustice, by subverting the very foundations of the Empire.

All which is respectfully submitted,

In name and by appointment of Commission, &c. &c. &c.

At Kingston, the eighth day of October, 1840.

HUGH URQUHART,
Moderator.

At Hamilton, 13th October, 1841.

The Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

Inter Alia.—There was read the reply of His Excellency the Governor General, to the enquiry of the Synod, respecting the intentions of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the Memorial and Protest—transmitted by the Commission to the Colonial Secretary in October, 1840. His Excellency's reply on this point is as follows:—"His Excellency has received from the Secretary of State a Despatch in answer to the Memorial and Protest of the Synod, transmitted by Sir George Arthur. Lord John Russell states, that with every deference for their feelings and opinions, Her Majesty's Government cannot renew the discussion of this subject in Parliament. With regard to the alledged inaccuracy of the information furnished to government, His Lordship observes, that in a country where it is so difficult to procure correct statistical information on almost all points, the utmost that can be expected is a return which shall be the nearest practicable approach to the truth; and as there seems no reason to believe that in the present case a safer guide than what was supplied could be obtained, Her Majesty's Government cannot encourage the Synod to hope that the question will be re-opened." There was also read, a letter addressed by the Clerk to the Chief Secretary, on his receiving the foregoing communication, directing attention to the remedy for the injustice complained of, suggested in the aforesaid Memorial and Protest, as available without the necessity for farther parliamentary interference—in consequence of the incorporation of the ministers and members of the United Synod of Upper Canada, with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, by reckoning that part of the Presbyterian population erroneously abstacted from the latter to the former, in the discretionary distribution by the Government, of the unappropriated portion of the Clergy Reserves—and requesting to be put in possession of the Governor General's views on that point—and the reply of His Excellency to the same, which is as follows:—"His Excellency desires me to state that as those provisions of the Clergy Reserve Act which relate to the Distribution of the Surplus beyond the sums to which the faith of the Crown is actually pledged, to which alone your question refers, cannot come into operation, until a future, and perhaps a distant day, His Excellency does not feel at liberty to express any opinion as to their practical working."

After mature consideration of this reply, in connexion with the Memorial and Protest, to which it refers, the Commission unanimously *resolved*,

1. That the statements contained in the Memorial and Protest, viewed in connexion with the Tabulated Abstract of the Census for 1839, transmitted to the Secretary of State, and the despatch of Sir George Arthur which accompanied it, place beyond all reasonable doubt the gross errors of the said Census, and the great injustice which the Presbyterian Church of Canada will suffer, through the operation of the Clergy Reserve Act as founded thereon.

2. That it is the bounden duty of the Rulers and Members of the Presbyterian Church, to use their utmost exertions to obtain full and detailed evidence of the inaccuracy of the said Census, in so far as the Presbyterian population is concerned, to be laid before Her Majesty's Government, in support of a renewed application for relief from the injustice referred to,

and from the serious injuries which would thence arise not only to themselves, but to their children and posterity.

3. That the following members, namely, Mr. Alex. Gale, Mr. M. Y. Stark, and Mr. J. Bayne, be appointed a committee to collect evidence on the subject in question, and to cause the same to be submitted to the Imperial Government and the Colonial Executive, in such manner as they may deem best, with authority to require the assistance of all Ministers and Presbyteries, in procuring the necessary information, and especially to call on the leading laymen connected with the Church, for their combined and strenuous co-operation in this matter, which chiefly pertains to them, as affecting more immediately the External condition of the Church. The Committee is farther instructed to cause the aforesaid Memorial and Protest to be printed and circulated, as also to ascertain and watch over the measures of Government, in regard to the sale of the Clergy Reserves, and to direct the attention of the Ministers and Members of the Church generally to the Religious Census to be taken for the ensuing year, so that errors and misrepresentations therein may be guarded against.

Extracted from the Records of the Commission of Synod by

ALEX. GALE, *Synod Clerk.*

HAMILTON, January 12th, 1841.

The Committee appointed by the Commission for the purposes indicated in the foregoing Minute, having met this day and considered the matters entrusted to them,

Resolved, That the Memorial and Protest referred to be printed and circulated, under the superintendence of the Convener, together with the Commission's Minute respecting the same, and that the attention of Presteries, Kirk Sessions, and the members and adherents of the Church generally, be earnestly requested to the following suggestions:

I. It ought to be steadily kept in view, that the Presbyterian population of Upper Canada immediately connected with the Church of Scotland, was made to appear by the Census of 1839, as not much exceeding 40,000 souls, and that a share of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves is assigned to us in the Act of the Imperial Parliament, proportioned to this number,—whereas, there is abundant reason to believe that our actual population in 1839, was not much, if at all short of 80,000.—It follows, that if no remedy is obtained we shall receive little more than half the portion to which our number entitles us.

II. It is also to be observed, that since 1839, and immediately before the passing of the Act referred to, the Ministers and members of the United Synod were incorporated with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, and that unless a a vigorous effort is made, this portion of our population will be altogether cut off from a participation in the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves, and the injustice done to the Presbyterian body greatly aggravated.

III. It is of much importance, farther, that it be kept in mind by all concerned—that however limited the immediate benefits of the Clergy Reserve Fund may be, they will be ultimately very considerable—that a remedy for the injury in question will be sought with much greater probability of success now, than at a future period, and therefore that the best interests of the future Presbyterian population of this country will be most materially affected by the efforts made by us to obtain such remedy.

IV. However clear and cogent the facts and argumeuts contained in the Memorial and Protest may be, in regard to the erroneous and deceptive character of the Presbyterian Census for 1839, on which the appropriation clauses of the Clergy Reserve Act were framed, it is manifest from Lord John Russell's reply, that it is indispensably necessary to the successful prosecution of our claim, that farther evidence be brought forward of the misrepresentation of our numbers in that Census, so minute and positive that it shall not be liable to be evaded or gainsaid.

V. As the most effectual way of bringing such evidence before the Government,—the Committe recommend, that the people of every Township or Congregation, who have been misrepresented in the Census for 1839, do immediately petition the Queen in Counell, setting forth in their

petition the nature and extent of the misrepresentation which has taken place in regard to them, and praying for relief from the injustice which has thereby been inflicted on the Presbyterian Church, in the apportionment of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves; each of the Congregations which were formerly connected with the United Synod, should also petition Her Majesty to the like effect, in terms suitable to the circumstances of their case. Forms of petition are subjoined, which may be modified so as to suit the peculiarities of the several cases.

The Committee earnestly request that Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, and all others concerned, will use their utmost efforts to obtain the signatures of the members and adherents of the Church, in their several localities as fully as possible. The labour of doing so may be materially lightened by taking the signatures of the male heads of families only, and inserting in a column the members in each household connected with the Church. The petitions when completed should be lodged with the Clerk of the Presbytery of the bounds.

The localities, from which it will be necessary, for the above purpose, to have petitions, must be ascertained by inspection of the Census for 1839, at the offices of the several Clerks of the Peace. The Committee can only point out the following as instances in which the errors of that Census are particularly gross, viz:

Bathurst District.—In the whole of which according to the Census there is not one member or adherent of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

Newcastle District.— Do. do.

Niagara District.—In the whole of which according to the Census, there are only 93 individuals connected with the Church of Scotland, and these in the Township of Bertie.

In the *Johnstown, Midland, Prince Edward, London*, and *Talbot* Districts, and also in some parts of the *Home* District, the errors of the Census seem to be very great.

VI. The Committee, in accordance with their instructions, would earnestly call the attention of the more influential laymen connected with the Presbyterian Church of Canada to this matter. Its important bearings on the present and future interests of the Presbyterian community in this colony will be readily discerned by them, and as it falls much more properly under their management, than that of the Church Courts, so, as the Committee are fully persuaded, the permanent and extensive injury which threatens the Presbyterian body will only be averted by their united and energetic exertions in obtaining the necessary evidence, and in pressing it on the attention of the Provincial and Imperial Government.

The Committee would farther solicit the attention of such friends of the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, as are members of the Imperial Parliament, or otherwise possess influence with the British Government, to the foregoing statements, and their aid in obtaining for their brethren in this distant land, an equitable adjustment of this matter.

VII. The Committee call the attention of Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, and the Members of the Church in general, to the Census to be taken in 1842. The Committee find that by an act passed during the last Session of Parliament, the Census will only be taken once in five years, after 1842. They also find that a schedule is annexed to that act according to which the returns are to be made in every District. This Schedule contains two columns for Presbyterians; the one headed, "*Number of persons in each family belonging to the Church of Scotland*," the other, "*Number of Presbyterians not in connexion, with the Church of Scotland, in each family.*" Gross errors and misrepresentations arose from similar headings of the columns, in the Census of former years, and they will almost inevitably be repeated in the approaching Census, to a considerable extent. Something, however, may be done to prevent this, by the exertions of Presbyteries, Ministers, and Members of the Church.

ALEX. GALE, *Convener.*

FORM OF PETITION.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, in Council:

The Petition of the Presbyterian inhabitants of the Township of———— in the District of———— in the Province of Canada, West,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That the Petitioners, your Majesty's faithful subjects, although they and the members of their families, [whose number they annex to their signatures,] are connected with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, find that they were represented in the Religious Census of Upper Canada, for 1839, as not connected with that Church, and that in consequence of this and similar errors the proportion of the population belonging to that Church was greatly under rated in the said Census, and a very inadequate share of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves, apportioned to it by the Act passed by the Imperial Parliament, in 1840, for the sale and appropriation of said Reserves. May it, therefore, please your majesty, to take into your gracious consideration, the injustice which has thus been done to them and to the Church, with which they are connected, and to afford them such relief and compensation as the case requires, out of the unappropriated portion of the proceeds of said Reserves.

And the Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

SECOND FORM OF PETITION.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, in Council:

The Petition of the Presbyterian Congregation in the Township of———— District of———— and Province of Upper Canada, west,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That the Petitioners, your Majesty's faithful subjects, together with the members of their families, [whose number they annex to their signatures,] were connected as a congregation with the United Synod of Upper Canada; a Presbyterian body, which, although holding in all respects the same standards of doctrine, discipline, govern't., and worship, as the Church of Scotland, maintained a separate Ecclesiastical Organization until the year 1840—that on the 3d day of July in that year, the United Synod was incorporated with the Synod in connexion with the Church of Scotland, on terms mutually agreed upon—that this measure, so conducive in itself to the unity and religious comfort of Your Majesty's Presbyterian subjects in this colony, will yet operate greatly to the disadvantage and injury of your Petitioners, and of the Presbyterian population generally, by depriving them of that portion of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves, to which they would have been entitled in their former Ecclesiastical Connection, the members of this congregation and of the other congregations formerly of the United Synod, being represented in the Census of 1839, as not connected with the Church of Scotland—while they can now only participate in the portion of the proceeds of the Reserves which has been allotted to the Church of Scotland, of which they now constitute an integral part.

May it, therefore, please your Majesty to take the injury which would thus be inflicted on your Petitioners, and on the Presbyterian Church generally, into your gracious consideration, and afford them such relief and compensation, as their case requires, out of the unappropriated portion of the proceeds of said Reserves.

And the Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

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